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WHALING IS STILL AN IMPORTANT INDUSTRY

(See Bulletin No. 5)

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Bombay: Capital of the Parsis

RIOTING in Bombay has cost more than a hundred lives.

Disorders have grown out of enmity between two of the dominant groups, Hindus and Moslems, that seethe in the racial medley of India's most populous city. Cosmopolitan Bombay has a third small group, the Parsis, which also is important because it is marvelously progressive.

That Bombay is a great industrial city, that it is a cotton-spinning town, that it has plenty of water power to run its mills, is due largely to the Parsis. In all India there are but one hundred thousand Parsis. Yet their influence is equal to or greater than that of any other group. Their "capital" is Bombay, where four-fifths of them reside.

Parsis, Like Pilgrims, Left Homeland to Preserve Faith

Parsis are remnants of a Persian people who refused to give up Zoroastrianism for Mohammedanism. They worship a single god whose symbol is light or fire. Like the Pilgrims who came from England to America, the Parsis came to India many centuries ago to preserve their faith.

This people and their peculiar burial custom are described by a correspondent of the National Geographic Society as follows:

"As a separate community the Parsis have not only their peculiar religion, but also their own moral code, and as a civil body they are not only permitted, but also aided by the state, in enforcing their own laws of marriage and divorce. Their ancient custom governing inheritance and succession has been enacted for them, on their petition, into the form of a legal statute by the empire. They enjoy full religious freedom, and their peculiar customs and manners are fully protected by the liberality of the British rule in India.

"Physically, they are tall and erect, having remarkably small hands and feet, with facial features resembling the Europeans. They have a quickness of action bordering on nervousness. Their hair is jet black and their eyes are dark. In their manners they are exceedingly polite, kind, and hospitable, often putting themselves to great inconvenience to accommodate a stranger. In the habit of diet they are religiously abstemious, and are exceedingly temperate in the use of tobacco and intoxicating liquors.

Build Towers of Silence for Disposal of Dead

"The domestic arrangements of their houses have also undergone, of late, vast changes. Their houses are generally built in good taste, upon well-conceived plans, and they are well ventilated. Their villas or garden houses are some of the best in Bombay. The drawing-rooms are richly furnished and decorated and the walls adorned with landscapes and historical pictures, while the particular pride of a Parsi is having his house brilliantly lighted with many lamps and chandeliers of every description.

"The public and private schools of Bombay are largely attended by their children, and every effort is made to procure translations of standard English books. As a matter of fact, it may be said that the Parsis are very progressive, and that it is only necessary for them to understand the value and advantage of whatever may be offered them to induce them to accept it with eagerness.

"In accordance with religious injunctions, the Parsis built their Towers of

© Photograph Courtesy of Royal Italian Embassy

THE NEW VATICAN CITY, AN INDEPENDENT STATE, WILL OCCUPY THE AREA IN THE UPPER RIGHT-HAND CORNER

To the right of the sharp bend in the Tiber River can be seen St. Peter's. Multi-roomed buildings and the Vatican Gardens stretch away to the right of the Basilica. The famous Colosseum and ancient Roman Forum are on the opposite side of the river and can be seen in the left edge of this air view. The white mass in the left center is the memorial to Vittorio Emanuele III. Railroads leading into Rome can be seen in the lower left-hand corner, and the adjacent circle faces, on its open side, the ruins of the Baths of Diocletian (See Bulletin No. 3).

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The Work of the Gulf Stream

SOME reports from Europe blame the unusually cold winter on the Gulf Stream. Since the Gulf Stream ordinarily receives credit for keeping Europe reasonably warm, this seems a strange accusation. What makes the report even stranger is the further statement that because the Gulf Stream has been *warmer* Europe has been *colder*.

For explanation of the mix-up, it is pointed out that warmer temperatures in the Gulf Stream might upset the regular progress of pressure areas, thus permitting cold Siberian winds to sweep down on Europe. Whatever happens to European weather, the Gulf Stream is held accountable for the phenomenon.

Gulf Stream Moves More Waters Than All Rivers of Earth

History, botany, geology, meteorology and oceanography can be called as character witnesses to testify to the settled habits of the Gulf Stream. From the testimony of this array of sciences it can be assumed that the great "river of the ocean" has been flowing along its course for centuries and even for scores of millenniums. The huge stream, which moves more water than all the rivers of the earth combined, can hardly be expected to change its age-old habits overnight.

Place an electric fan so that its current of air strikes one side of the surface of a tub full of water and you will have the phenomena of the Gulf Stream repeated on a small scale. The fan's air blast will raise tiny ripples and will drive the surface water before it. The moving surface water will drag the deeper water along. Before long practically all the water will be in motion, swirling around the tub.

In the case of the Gulf Stream the North Atlantic Ocean stands in the place of the tub, and the trade winds of the northern hemisphere play the part of the electric fan. Other factors have a hand in creating and molding the Gulf Stream, however. The Caribbean Sea, hemmed in on the north by Cuba and Haiti, and on the south and southwest by the coasts of Central America and Yucatan, is a gigantic funnel with the spout leading into the Gulf of Mexico. The waters of the Caribbean, blown westward by the trade winds, rush through this spout and "pile up," so to speak, in the Gulf of Mexico.

Florida Straits the Nozzle for the Gulf Stream

The only outlet is through the Florida Straits between the tip of Florida and Cuba. Through this nozzle, then, the stream gushes out, an irresistible current 40 miles wide and nearly 3,000 feet deep. Guided northward by the Bahamas and then eastward by the continental shelf of North America, the great stream moves with such momentum that it plows through the ocean and preserves its identity far into the Atlantic. After its identity as a stream is lost there is still an eastward drift of its waters.

Although the Gulf Stream is usually thought of as arising in the Gulf of Mexico and spending itself on the shores of Europe, in reality much of it completes the circuit and constitutes a vast merry-go-round of waters in the North Atlantic. A branch of the stream turns north of the British Isles and enters the Arctic Ocean; but another part turns south to the coast of Portugal, then southwest and finally comes again under the influence of the trade winds which give it new life.

Silence on the tops of hills, if available. No expense is spared in constructing them of the hardest and best materials, with a view that they may last for centuries, without the possibility of polluting the earth or contaminating any living beings.

"On Malabar Hill, a long, prominent, rocky ridge, paralleling and overlooking the Arabian Sea, are built the 'Towers of Silence.' They are five in number; one is now more than 230 years old; another is for the use of suicides only.

"They are surrounded by about 16 acres of ground planted with beautiful flowers and tropical plants. These 'Dokmas,' or 'Towers of Silence,' are built upon one plan, but their size may and does vary. The largest of them measures 276 feet in circumference, or about 90 feet in diameter, surrounded by a circular wall, 20 to 30 feet in height, built of the hardest stone, and faced with white plaster. There is an opening or door just above the ground level, through which the dead bodies are carried by professional corpse-bearers, who have gone through certain religious ceremonies and who are alone privileged to carry the corpses into the tower. No one else can enter or touch them.

"When the corpse has been completely stripped of its flesh by the vultures, which is generally accomplished within an hour at the outside, and when the bones of the denuded skeleton are perfectly dried by the powerful heat of a tropical sun and atmospheric influences, they are thrown into a pit, where they crumble into dust, the rich and poor thus meeting together after death in one common level of equality.

"This mode of disposing of the dead, which the Parsis have practiced for countless generations, is repulsive to the sentiment of nations accustomed to bury their dead in the ground; but it is thoroughly sanitary, and clears away one of the greatest difficulties encumbering the path of sanitary reformers in great cities."

Bulletin No. 1, March 18, 1929.

© Photograph by Dr. C. G. Abbot

AMID SCENES LIKE THIS OCCURRED THE RECENT BOMBAY RIOT

Sacred cows are treated with the utmost veneration by Hindus. They may be seen in the crowded slums of Bombay where, according to investigators, 97 per cent of the working-class families live in one room. Of every 1,000 babies born 666 die within the first year. Bombay struggles with its housing problems, but with no hope of providing living conditions equal to those in America.

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San Marino, Now the Second Smallest Independent State

SAN MARINO has been deposed. The little country which has enjoyed the distinction of being the smallest independent state in the world now becomes the second smallest state.

The creation of the new City of the Vatican, a much smaller independent state, makes San Marino quite a giant by comparison.

Like the City of the Vatican, the little republic, only 38 square miles in area, is entirely surrounded by Italian territory. It lies about 10 miles inland from the Adriatic in northeastern Italy, near the coastal city of Rimini, in the edge of the province of Forli. The town of San Marino, capital and dominant community of the Republic, is perched on top of a great rock, Mount Titanus—the famous mountain which, mythology asserts, the angry Titans raised in their war against Jove.

Napoleon Called It a Model Republic

But Mount Titanus has been an abode of peace now for fifteen centuries. The story is that the republic was founded by a pious stone-cutter, Marino, from Dalmatia, who in the fourth century brought Christianity to fellow stone workers, and retired with them to seek peace and quiet on the rocky mountain. A Christian convert, the wealthy matron Felicissima, who owned the mountain, gave it to Marino, and on his death he willed it to his followers "free from every other man."

At times the people of San Marino have had to fight in defense of their rocky home: once against Caesar Borgia in the sixteenth century, and again against Cardinal Alberoni in 1739. Napoleon left the republic unmolested, and in a letter wrote: "We consider San Marino a model Republic."

San Marino includes level fields around Mount Titanus, but these have been acquired by purchase, not by aggression. The automobile that brings visitors from the nearest railway station at Rimini crosses these outlying lands of the republic and climbs up the lower slopes of the rock. But all passengers must descend before the ancient arched gateway to the city. One must climb from there afoot up a steep, narrow, crooked street past little squares, to the chief square, the Piazza della Liberta, with its statue of the cherished Liberty in the center. About this square are the government palace, the Tribunal, and the postal and telegraph offices. In an angle of the palace stands a statue of the founder, San Marino.

San Marino Issues Postage Stamps but Uses Italian Money

The government of the 11,000 inhabitants of San Marino has many medieval touches. Twice a year the heads of families meet in a body to petition the government. The latter consists of an elective council of 60 members chosen by the citizens for three-year terms, and two Consuls or Regents elected from the Council by the latter. These serve for six months and are not eligible for reelection for three years. The Regents receive no salary, but each has an allowance of about $30 with which to purchase clothes. Elaborate medieval costumes are used on state occasions, and the allowance must be stretched to cover the expense.

In the more level lands of San Marino the peasants farm and raise stock. But the typical Sammarinese is, like the founder of the republic, a stone-cutter, employed in the quarries on the slopes of the great rock.

San Marino issues its own stamps, but uses Italian money. It has extradition treaties with the United States, Great Britain, and several important European countries, and maintains consular representatives in a number of foreign lands.

Bulletin No. 3, March 18, 1929.

Carried Objects Which Gave Hints to Columbus

The Gulf Stream has had a rôle in world affairs, the importance of which is seldom realized. For ages it has helped in the scattering and evolution of animal and vegetable forms. It has held the climate of much of northern Europe in its moving waters and the winds they warm. But for its beneficent work as carrier of equatorial heat to the northward and eastward, England might have the climate of Labrador, and Norway the bleakness of Greenland. It has even had much to do with the geological formation of large areas of the ocean's bottom by determining the places of sedimentation. And day by day it is a factor in the price of everything carried afloat between Europe and America as well as in the safety of all who cross the Atlantic.

The great current has had its part, too, in shaping the history of America. Before the discovery of the New World, strange woods and fruits were found on the shores of Europe and the off-lying islands. Some of these were seen and examined by Columbus, and to his thoughtful mind they were convincing evidence that strange lands existed somewhere to the westward. These objects were carried by the Gulf Stream and by the prevailing winds from the American continent, so that in part the Stream laid the foundation for Columbus' famous voyage. Once under way, and sailing across the southern rather than the northern portion of the Atlantic, Columbus had the return flow of the great circular stream to help carry him to the West Indies.

Bulletin No. 2, March 18, 1929.

© *Photograph by A. B. Nilson*

IN AMERICA WE WELCOME SPRING; IN SWEDEN THEY WELCOME SUMMER

It is Midsummer Day, June 24, which, next to Christmas, is Sweden's greatest festival of the year, for on this day the sun has reached the height of its glory. Around the wreathed and garlanded Maypole the villagers, like their Viking ancestors, begin to dance on Midsummer Eve and continue throughout the brief twilight. (Compare with illustration following Bulletin No. 5.)

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Everybody Likes a Good Excuse to Take a Trip

THIS is "hadj" season in the Near and Far East. It is the time of year when the devout Moslem crosses the desert to Mecca, and ships arriving at Jidda send ashore thousands who travel over the sands to the religious capital.

"Have you been to Mecca?" asks Ibn of Abul.

"Yes, I have made the hadj," answers Abul proudly.

We regard with amazement the faith which drives Abul and thousands of fellow Mohammedans to make a long desert journey to Mecca. Abul, however, traveled at the best time to go on a vacation through the desert. He went immediately after the winter rains. Only then the waste of sand and rock dresses in cool green for a brief time. Dusty, dead shrubs break out with new leaves. Grass grows luxuriantly for the hungry camels. Desert flowers pattern the sand. Religious duty calls Abul to Mecca, and wanderlust and the very human desire to see new beauty call him too.

The Sacred and Pleasurable Duty of Climbing Fujiyama

In India the tired business man and his family travel to the Ganges River to bathe in its sacred though muddy waters. He calls his journey a pilgrimage to fulfill religious obligations, and yet it must be a grateful change from the tedium of village life. Benares, you might say, is India's Atlantic City.

In Japan villages organize "lotteries." Many contribute to a pot, and the holder of the lucky ticket, taking all the money, departs for a jaunt up Fujiyama. Japanese consider the climb a sacred ascent of the Supreme Altar. Yet the satisfactions of viewing the Sea of Cotton from Fujiyama must be similar to the joys of a vacationist who looks on the world from Mt. Washington in New Hampshire.

They Went for Baths but Wanted Recreation

The Olympic games of ancient Greece promoted the world's first excursions. One month after the first full moon after the 21st of June, every four years, a general peace proclamation went out through the states of Greece. Thousands of contestants and fans then took up the trail to the Vale of Olympia. They feasted and watched the races and the discus throwers. They had such a vacation as many thousands had last year at the Olympic games in Amsterdam.

Despite the good example of Greece, Romans with the bath complex warped the leisure ideas of Europe down to our day. Baden Baden (literally Bath Bath, to distinguish it from other Badens) is one of hundreds of Roman health springs which dot the Continent. But Europeans, too, begin to look upon vacation time as play time. Kings and queens, princes and princesses once took the waters at the original spa in Belgium. Royalty and fashion now drift to San Sebastian, Deauville, Biarritz and the Riviera.

Bulletin No. 4, March 18, 1929.

© *Photograph from Alice Rohe*

BULLOCK POWER IS IMPORTANT IN SAN MARINO TRANSPORTATION

As these splendid animals attest, stock-raising is the principal occupation of the San Marino people, but the cultivation of vineyards is a close second. Even the poorest peasant crushes his grapes and makes his wine.

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Norway Annexes "Hide-and-Seek Islands"

THE BRITISH Government has accepted Norway's claim to two of the loneliest islands in all the lonely seas, Thompson and Bouvet Islands. Norway, owner of land close to the North Pole, now becomes the recognized holder of property close to the South Pole.

Bouvet Island was discovered by a Frenchman, its location was determined by a German, it once was claimed by an Englishman and for a time bore the name of Liverpool, and now Norway is annexing it.

But more fundamental than that is the "hide-and-seek" character of Bouvet and its neighbors, if any. During the past 189 years it has been variously believed that in this patch of the Atlantic Ocean there were three islands, two islands, one island, and no islands at all!

Bouvet, the Explorer, Looked for a Continent and Found an Island

Many maps of to-day show Bouvet Island, with Thompson Island due north, and Lindsay Island due west. Since the Norwegian grant follows a reconnaissance expedition made by the leaseholders, it apparently has been determined once for all that two of these islands mentioned in the lease, Bouvet and Thompson, are there and are to "stay put."

The nearest inhabited places to Bouvet Island are Tristan da Cunha, another lonely land spot to the northwest, and Cape Town, South Africa, to the northeast. Both places are some 1,200 miles distant from Bouvet.

What lies behind the icy shore lines of Bouvet Island still is little known. Its very existence was doubted for a century or more, yet for 189 years its name has appeared on maps as a tribute to the courage of an early French explorer, Loziers Bouvet.

To appreciate Bouvet's early voyage to the far south it must be recalled that until 1750 practically all the navigators who sighted southern ice did so not from intent, but because they were driven off their chosen courses. Bouvet was the exception. Before that time, and before Captain James Cook first circumnavigated the southern seas, Bouvet set out to look for the hypothetical Southern Continent.

Captain Cook Proved Bouvet an Island Without Seeing It

The Frenchman discovered land—the land we now know as Bouvet Island. Bouvet gave the pilot of his ship, the *Aigle*, a purse for heading toward this uncharted land, and for twelve days he hovered about a lofty cape. Great ice sheets prevented his going ashore, and heavy fogs drove him northward before he could even circumnavigate the land he found. Therefore he sailed away still in doubt whether he had found a tiny island, or a projection of the Southern Continent for which he was searching.

It remained for Captain Cook, who never saw Bouvet Island, and could not find it when he tried, to prove its insular character. He sailed over open water 300 miles to the south of it, evidence that it did not form a part of the Southern Continent. Cook's further voyaging, and the explorations of others, having disproved there was a continental mass in the south Atlantic projecting

UMI

© Photograph by American Colony Photographers

FOR A FEW WEEKS IN THE EARLY SPRING THE DESERT IS A PLEASANT PLACE

After the winter rains have ceased the warm sun brings a miracle to pass in the desert. Bushes that looked dry and dead send forth tiny leaves; the barren sands bloom with brilliant beds of flowers. Spring in the desert is the time when the wells are full of water and the hungry camels find forage everywhere. Their humps grow fat as they store up food against hot, dry days of midsummer.

northward between Africa and South America, it became the fashion to discount all previous land discoveries in that region.

Bouvet Island remained on the maps, sometimes with a question mark after its name. Mariners said that the explorer probably had merely sighted an iceberg. Not until 1898, when a German expedition steamed in these waters, were its latitude and longitude accurately determined.

Lindsay Island Still a Geographic Mystery

A few facts have been gleaned about Bouvet Island. It is only about 5 miles long and 4½ miles wide. The island has a single volcanic cone, the slopes of which terminate in precipitous cliffs and glaciers. The eastern side, at least, is covered by an ice sheet which, at the ocean side, forms an ice wall nearly as high as the Washington Monument. The northern and western sides are freer from ice because of their steepness, but are obviously just as inhospitable.

The third island, Lindsay, is not mentioned in the Norwegian claims. It is boldly set down on some maps, but doubt is now expressed whether it exists. Some mariners have reported seeing it; others have sought it in vain. When the Norwegian leaseholders begin to hunt whales and guano, under the terms of their grant, they probably will be able to report finally on the existence of the third island.

Bulletin No. 5, March 18, 1929.

© *National Geographic Society*

SCENE AT BATTLE HARBOR, LABRADOR

The latitude in which this picture was taken is practically the same as that of the picture following Bulletin No. 2. If it were not for the Gulf Stream, northern Europe would be a barren, treeless region like much of Labrador. The small population of Labrador is dependent upon fishing and hunting. The large population of Scandinavia is supported by agriculture and industry as well as fishing.